

veloped by the author; but the preceding passage may suffice to indicate his general opinion on this knotty subject. The remainder of the book is devoted to a consideration of the principles of classification, and a discussion of the boundary between animals and plants. We look forward to the publication of the second part of Prof. Pagenstecher's book, and recommend it with confidence to the notice of the readers of the 'Annals.'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Organic Remains in the Metamorphic Rocks of Harris.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—It may interest the readers of the 'Annals' to know that we have recently discovered evidence of life in the so-called "Laurentian Rocks" of Harris, in the Hebrides. The specimens in question are as clearly organic in their nature, and as well preserved in their minute structure, as is the case with Silurian or Devonian fossils of an analogous structure (such, for example, as *Stromatopora*). At present we have merely made a preliminary microscopic examination of the specimens; and we simply wish, therefore, to draw attention to the fact, so interesting in view of recent discussions, that unequivocal organic bodies occur in such ancient deposits as the lowest metamorphic rocks of Harris. We may add, however, that the specimens are little altered, the skeleton of the fossil being calcareous, apparently dolomite, and exhibiting all the minute details of its structure; whilst the chambers are filled, as so commonly in organic remains from younger deposits, with transparent silica. Finally, though apparently differing from it in important respects, we believe that our specimens will contribute powerfully to the solution of the controversy which has been of late years carried on as to the true nature of *Eozoon*.

We remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. ALLEYNE NICHOLSON,
JAMES THOMSON.

Reproduction of Amblystoma.

By M. BLANCHARD.

The Mexican *Amblystoma*, the adult form of the axolotl, has just deposited eggs for the first time in the menagerie of the Museum. The fact is of considerable importance, as it does away with the ideas which have arisen with regard to the sterility of adult Batrachia which displayed extreme fecundity while they remained in the condition of larvæ.

The researches of M. Aug. Duméril upon the axolotls will not be